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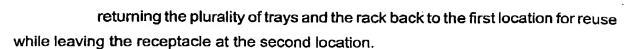
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21. (NEW) A method of preparing, transporting and dispensing food, the method comprising the steps of:

preparing the food for consumption at a first location;

apportioning the food onto a plurality of trays at the first location;

providing a maneuverable rack with a predetermined stacking arrangement of particular dimensions and stacking the plurality of trays, once apportioned with food, in the rack;

loading the rack, stacked with the plurality of trays, onto a refrigerated transport vehicle for transportation to a second remote location;

transferring the rack, at the second location, from the refrigerated transport vehicle to a moveable receptacle, and the moveable receptacle having at least one of heating means and cooling means, and the receptacle being configured to receive at least one rack;

relocating the moveable receptacle to a desired position:

activating one of the heating means and the cooling means to regenerate the apportioned food of the plurality of trays of the rack; and

dispensing the plurality of trays, containing the apportioned food, to consumers for consumption once the apportioned food is sufficiently regenerated;

collecting the plurality of trays with the rack in the receptacle following consumption by the consumer:

removing the at least one maneuverable rack from the moveable receptacle:

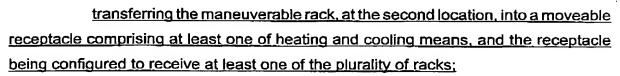
loading the at least one maneuverable rack back onto the transfer vehicle
for transportation of the rack from the second location back to the first location for reuse
while leaving the receptacle at the second location.

22. (NEW) A method of preparing, transporting and dispensing food between a series of remote locations, the method comprising the steps of:

preparing the food for consumption at a first location;
apportioning the food onto a plurality of trays at the first location;
stacking the trays in a manually maneuverable rack, and providing the rack with a predetermined stacking arrangement of particular dimensions;

loading the maneuverable rack onto a transfer vehicle for transportation to a second remote location;

and



relocating the moveable receptacle to a desired position:

activating at least one of the heating and cooling means prior to dispensing of the food trays to consumers;

dispensing the food trays to the consumers for consumption;
collecting and re-stacking the trays in the rack situated within the receptacle;
removing the at least one maneuverable rack from the moveable receptacle;

loading the at least one maneuverable rack back onto the transfer vehicle for transportation of the rack from the second location back to the first location.

23. (NEW) A method of preparing and transporting food for regeneration comprising the steps of:

apportioning food onto at least one tray:

loading at a first location at least one tray bearing the apportioned food onto a rack for receiving and supporting the at least one tray;

loading the rack, containing the at least one tray, onto a transport vehicle for transportation to a remote location from the first location:

transporting the rack, containing the at least one tray bearing the apportioned food, in the transport vehicle to the remote location;

after the rack has been transported to the remote location in the transport vehicle, transferring the rack from the transport vehicle to a receptacle, the receptacle being configured to receive at least one rack; and

activating a heating system and a cooling system to regenerate the apportioned food on the at least one tray on the rack that is positioned in the receptacle.

- 24. (NEW) The method as claimed in claim 23, the heating system and the cooling system being located in the receptacle.
- 25. (NEW) The method as claimed in claim 23, the heating system and the cooling system being demountably coupled to the receptacle.
- 26. (NEW) The method as claimed in claim 23, further comprising the step of: dispensing the at least one tray bearing the apportioned food to a consumer for consumption of the food.
- 27. (NEW) The method as claimed in claim 26, further comprising the step of:

 collecting the at least one tray after the at least one tray has been dispensed
 to a consumer for consumption of the food.



- 28. (NEW) The method as claimed in claim 27, further comprising the step of: returning the at least one tray and the rack to the first location.
- 29. (NEW) The method as claimed in claim 23, the transfer vehicle being a refrigerated vehicle.
- 30. (NEW) The method as claimed in claim 23, further comprising the step of:
 dispensing the at least one tray bearing the apportioned food to a consumer
 for consumption of the food;

the transfer vehicle being a refrigerated vehicle; and the heating system and the cooling system being located in the receptacle.

31. (NEW) The method as claimed in claim 23, further comprising the step of:
dispensing the at least one tray bearing the apportioned food to a consumer
for consumption of the food;

the transfer vehicle being a refrigerated vehicle; and
the heating system and the cooling system being demountably coupled to
the receptacle.

32. (NEW) A method of preparing and transporting food for regeneration comprising the steps of:

apportioning food onto at least one tray;

loading at a first location at least one tray bearing the apportioned food onto a rack for receiving and supporting the at least one tray:

loading the rack, containing the at least one tray, onto a transport vehicle for transportation to a remote location from the first location:

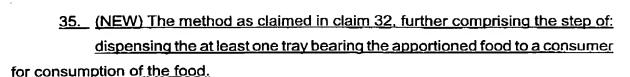
<u>transporting the rack, containing the at least one tray bearing the apportioned food, in the transport vehicle to the remote location:</u>

after the rack has been transported to the remote location in the transport vehicle, transferring the rack from the transport vehicle to a receptacle, the receptacle being configured to receive at least one rack;

providing a heating system and a cooling system to regenerate the apportioned food on the at least one tray on the rack in the receptacle; and

activating at least one of the heating system and the cooling system to regenerate the apportioned food on the at least one tray on the rack that is positioned in the receptacle.

- 33. (NEW) The method as claimed in claim 32, the heating system and the cooling system being located in the receptacle.
- 34. (NEW) The method as claimed in claim 32, the heating system and the cooling system being demountably coupled to the receptacle.



- 36. (NEW) The method as claimed in claim 35, further comprising the step of: collecting the at least one tray after the at least one tray has been dispensed to a consumer for consumption of the food.
 - 37. (NEW) The method as claimed in claim 36, further comprising the step of: returning the at least one tray and the rack to the first location.
- 38. (NEW) The method as claimed in claim 32, the transfer vehicle being a refrigerated vehicle.
- 39. (NEW) The method as claimed in claim 32, further comprising the step of:
 dispensing the at least one tray bearing the apportioned food to a consumer for consumption of the food;

the transfer vehicle being a refrigerated vehicle; and the heating system and the cooling system being located in the receptacle.

40. (NEW) The method as claimed in claim 32, further comprising the step of:
dispensing the at least one tray bearing the apportioned food to a consumer
for consumption of the food;

the transfer vehicle being a refrigerated vehicle; and
the heating system and the cooling system being demountably coupled to
the receptacle.